

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God,
 a mighty stronghold to save me.
 For you are my rock, my stronghold!
 Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Cf. Ps 30: 3-4**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
 you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

1S3:9, Jn6:68**Gospel****Matthew 5:17-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery*. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal*. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord*. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
 cleanse and renew us
 and may it become for those who do your will
 the source of eternal reward.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon**Cf. Ps 77: 29-30**

They ate and had their fill,
 and what they craved the Lord gave them;
 they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
 we pray, O Lord,
 that we may always long
 for that food by which we truly live.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide
 in hearts that are just and true,
 grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace
 as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.

First reading**Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21**

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
 to behave faithfully is within your power.
 He has set fire and water before you;
 put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
 Man has life and death before him;
 whichever a man likes better will be given him.
 For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
 he is almighty and all-seeing.
 His eyes are on those who fear him,
 he notes every action of man.
 He never commanded anyone to be godless,
 he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34*They are happy who follow God's law!*

They are happy whose life is blameless,
 who follow God's law!
 They are happy who do his will,
 seeking him with all their hearts.

They are happy who follow God's law!

You have laid down your precepts
 to be obeyed with care.
 May my footsteps be firm
 to obey your statutes.

They are happy who follow God's law!

Bless your servant and I shall live
 and obey your word.
 Open my eyes that I may see
 the wonders of your law.

They are happy who follow God's law!

Teach me the demands of your statutes
 and I will keep them to the end.
 Train me to observe your law,
 to keep it with my heart.

*They are happy who follow God's law!***Second reading****1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity:
 not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of
 our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of
 God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God
 predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a
 wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known,
 or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach
 what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear
 has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has
 prepared for those who love him.*

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through
 the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even
 the depths of God.

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website: www.saintagathas.org.uk

15th February 2026
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
News/prayers

Service times :

St Agatha Sundays at 11am

St Barnabas at 9am on Sundays

15th February, 1st March- Communion from the reserved sacrament

8th & 22nd March - **Mass**

Stations of the Cross- 27th February and 20th March at 10.30am

(No other services planned in the near future)

Ash Wednesday

18th March 7pm Mass at St Agatha's

with imposition of ashes

Next Sunday:
We are delighted to announce that **The Bishop of Oswestry, The Rt Rev'd Paul Thomas** has offered to celebrate Mass for us at St Agatha's on Sunday 22nd February at 11am.
Please join us if you can!

We pray for our parish, for all who live and work within our parish boundaries; holding them up for God's blessing. We pray for all pupils who attend the schools within our parish. We pray for St Agatha's Boxing Club, and St Barnabas' Nursery. We commend to you all who are sick or in any kind of need. We pray for the Fr Michael, Fr Sergei, Church Warden Martin and the congregation of the Russian Orthodox Parish of All Saints, who meet at St Agatha's on Saturdays.

We pray for our parish in interregnum. We ask your help for all in positions of responsibility in our churches and for priests who visit and minister to us. We pray for Bishop Paul.

We pray for each individual member of our congregations that we may be faithful to our vocations and worthy ambassadors of our Catholic faith.

St Agatha's Prayer

Let your forgiveness be won for us by the pleading of Saint Agatha, who found favour with you by her chastity and by her courage in suffering death for the gospel.

St Barnabas's Prayer

God our Father, You filled Saint Barnabas with faith and the Holy Spirit and sent him to convert the nations; help us to proclaim the gospel by word and deed.

We pray for those who are in need or ill: Janet Gregory, John Gregory, David Stokes, Elaine Stanley, Donnette Rigg, Phil Lee,, Esther Micklewright, Robert Smith, Fr. John Luff, Carole Luff, Irene Priestly, Becky Morton.

We pray for those who have died recently and for those with anniversaries at this time of year.

